

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-8 (Canceled)

Claim 9 (Withdrawn) A video data generation method comprising: reducing the length of digital data including video on the basis of auxiliary information relating to the digital data, thereby generating reduced digital data; and recording or transmitting the reduced digital data.

Claim 10 (Withdrawn) The video data generation method as defined in claim 9, wherein the reduced digital data is generated by preferentially extracting digital data having a high degree of importance, on the basis of the auxiliary information.

Claim 11 (Withdrawn) The video data generation method as defined in claim 10, wherein: generation of the reduced digital data is carried out on the basis of the time required for transmission of the digital data or the storage capacity required for recording of the digital data, in addition to the auxiliary information; and the generated reduced digital data is transmitted.

Claim 12 (Withdrawn) The video data generation method as defined in claim 10, wherein the generated reduced digital data is reproduced at the side where the digital data is generated.

Claim 13 (Withdrawn) A video data generation method comprising: reducing the length of digital data including video on the basis of auxiliary information relating to the digital data, and information relating to transmission, thereby generating reduced digital data; and recording or transmitting the reduced digital data.

Claim 14 (Withdrawn) The video data generation method as defined in claim 13, wherein the information relating to transmission is information about the name of a destination.

Claim 15 (Withdrawn) The video data generation method as defined in claim 13, wherein the information relating to transmission is information about the contents to be transmitted.

Claim 16 (Withdrawn) The video data generation method as defined in claim 13, wherein the information relating to transmission is information about the capability of a terminal at a destination.

Claim 17 (Withdrawn) A video data generation method comprising: selecting at least one piece of digital data from plural pieces of digital data including video, on the basis of auxiliary information relating to the digital data and information relating to transmission; and recording or transmitting the selected digital data.

Claim 18 (Withdrawn) The video data generation method as defined in claim 17, wherein the information relating to transmission is information about the name of a destination.

Claim 19 (Withdrawn) The video data generation method as defined in claim 17, wherein the information relating to transmission is information about the contents to be transmitted.

Claim 20 (Withdrawn) The video data generation method as defined in claim 17, wherein the information relating to transmission is information about the capability of a terminal at a destination.

Claim 21 (Withdrawn) A video data playback method comprising: reducing the length of digital data including video, on the basis of auxiliary information relating to the digital data, thereby generating reduced digital data; and displaying the reduced digital data.

Claim 22 (Withdrawn) A video data playback apparatus for reducing the length of digital data including video, on the basis of auxiliary information relating to the digital data, thereby

generating reduced digital data; and displaying the reduced digital data.

Claim 23 (Canceled)

Claim 24 (Withdrawn) A data storage medium which stores a data processing program for making a computer execute the video data generation method defined in claim 13.

Claim 25 (Withdrawn) A data storage medium which stores a data processing program for making a computer execute the video data generation method defined in claim 17.

Claim 26 (Canceled)

Claim 27 (Withdrawn) A data storage medium which stores the video data generated by the video data generation method defined in claim 13.

Claim 28 (Withdrawn) A data storage medium which stores the video data generated by the video data generation method defined in claim 17.

Claim 29 (Currently amended) An imaging device for adding auxiliary information to digital data, said imaging device comprising:

an interface device operable to receive an externally generated image input, ~~and operable to receive an auxiliary information input;~~

an information button operable to input auxiliary information according to user operation;

an imaging unit operable to capture and photoelectrically convert an image into an image signal when said interface device receives the externally generated image input;

a coding device operable to generate first digital data by compressing the image signal created by said imaging unit when said interface device receives the externally generated image input;
and

a digital data generation device operable to combine, at a time when ~~said interface device receives~~ the auxiliary information is input and when the image is captured and photoelectrically converted into the image signal by said imaging unit, the auxiliary information received at the time with the first digital data corresponding to the image captured and photoelectrically converted by said imaging unit at the time, to produce second digital data comprising the combined auxiliary information and first digital data, and operable to output the second digital data to a recording device or a transmission device.

Claim 30 (Previously presented) The imaging device of Claim 29, wherein said interface device includes an identifier input part operable to identify the first digital data, and wherein the auxiliary information identifies the first digital data according to said identifier input part.

Claim 31 (Previously presented) The imaging device of Claim 29, wherein said interface device includes a microphone operable to receive audio, and wherein the auxiliary information indicates a level of audio received by said microphone.

Claim 32 (Previously presented) The imaging device of Claim 29, wherein said digital data generation device is operable to insert the auxiliary information into a header portion of the first digital data , and operable to generate the second digital data comprised of the first digital data and the auxiliary information inserted into the header portion of the first digital data.

Claim 33 (Previously presented) The imaging device of claim 29, wherein said imaging device is integrated into a camera.

Claim 34 (Previously presented) The imaging device of claim 29, wherein the imaging device is integrated into a mobile phone.

Claim 35 (Currently amended) An imaging method for adding auxiliary information to

digital data, said imaging method comprising:

receiving an externally generated image input;

receiving an auxiliary information input via an information button according to user operation;

capturing and photoelectrically converting an image into an image signal upon said receiving of the externally generated image input;

generating first digital data by compressing the image signal created by said capturing and photoelectrically converting of the image upon said receiving of the externally generated image input;

combining, at a time of said receiving of the auxiliary information ~~input~~ and of said capturing and photoelectrically converting the image into the image signal, the auxiliary information received at the time with the first digital data corresponding to the image captured and photoelectrically converted, at the time, by said capturing and photoelectrically converting;

producing second digital data comprising the combined auxiliary information and first digital data; and

outputting the second digital data to a recording device or a transmission device.

Claim 36 (Currently amended) A computer readable recording medium storing a program for causing a computer to execute an imaging method for adding auxiliary information to digital data, said imaging method comprising:

receiving an externally generated image input;

receiving an auxiliary information input via an information button according to user operation;

capturing and photoelectrically converting an image into an image signal upon said receiving of the externally generated image input;

generating first digital data by compressing the image signal created by said capturing and photoelectrically converting of the image upon said receiving of the externally generated image input;

combining, at a time of said receiving of the auxiliary information ~~input~~ and of said capturing and photoelectrically converting the image into the image signal, the auxiliary information received at the time with the first digital data corresponding to the image captured and photoelectrically converted, at the time, by said capturing and photoelectrically converting; producing second digital data comprising the combined auxiliary information and first digital data; and outputting the second digital data to a recording device or a transmission device.

Claim 37 (New) The imaging device according to claim 29, wherein the auxiliary information identifies a degree of importance.

Claim 38 (New) The imaging device according to claim 37, wherein, if the degree of importance is identified as higher than normal, then an image representing the second digital data is assigned a specific color, and if the degree of importance is identified as lower than normal, then the image representing the second digital data is assigned another specific color.

Claim 39 (New) The imaging method according to claim 35, wherein the auxiliary information identifies a degree of importance.

Claim 40 (New) The computer-readable recording medium according to claim 36, wherein the auxiliary information identifies a degree of importance.